Court mornings at the Frank Crowley Courts Building start early. The building sits at 133 N Riverfront Blvd on the western edge of downtown near the Trinity River, and on a busy weekday the security line can stretch out the door. For someone charged with DWI after a stop in Oak Lawn or along the Dallas North Tollway, that first court date often brings more anxiety than the arrest itself. Dallas DWI Lawyers walks clients through what to expect so the day feels less like stepping into the unknown. Where the case is heard depends on the charge. Misdemeanor DWI cases, including a first or second offense, go to the County Criminal Courts. Felony cases, such as a third DWI, DWI with a passenger under 15 or intoxication assault, are heard in the District Courts. Both are housed in the same building, so the courtroom number on the bond paperwork or court notice is the detail to check twice. Arriving well ahead of the setting time leaves room for parking and the metal detectors, plus the elevators, which can be slow when dockets are full. Most people are surprised by how little happens at a first setting. It is rarely a trial and usually not the day anyone decides guilt or innocence. In many cases the hearing is about confirming the person has a lawyer, reviewing bond conditions and setting the case for a later date while the defense gathers evidence. That evidence matters. A DWI defense attorney will want the offense report, the dash and body camera video, the breath test records or blood lab results, and ***Dallas criminal defense DWI*** any notes on field sobriety testing. Jess Gambrell, who leads our Dallas office, spent six years as a prosecutor in Tarrant County and knows how the State builds a file before it ever reaches a courtroom.

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A few habits help on the day. Dress the way you would for a job interview. Bring your bond paperwork and any letter or notice from the court, and turn off your phone before you enter the courtroom. Avoid talking about the facts of your case in the hallways or elevators, where you have no idea who is listening. If you have an ignition interlock or alcohol monitoring condition, bring proof that you have been following it, since a judge may ask. Some settings may be handled by your lawyer without you present, but never assume that. Ask first, and appear unless your lawyer tells you otherwise. If your first setting is coming up and you do not yet have counsel, call or text Dallas DWI Lawyers at (945) 403-4331 any time, 24/7, for a free case evaluation. Our office is at 325 North St Paul Street in the Republic Center tower downtown, a short trip from the courthouse, and our staff speaks Spanish, Russian and Ukrainian.

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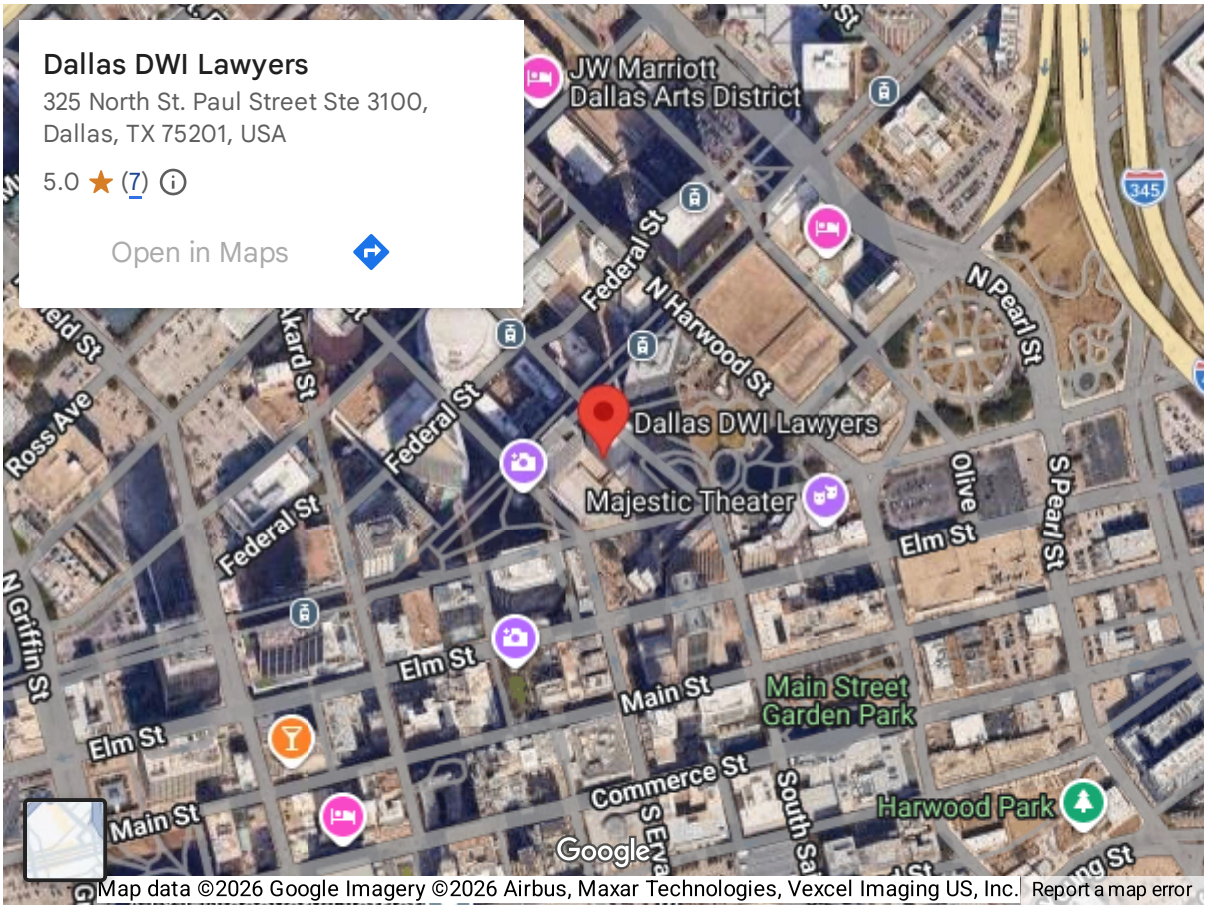

FAQ About

DWI Defense Attorney in Dallas How much is a DWI lawyer in Texas? Fees depend on whether the case is a first offense misdemeanor or a felony, whether there is an ALR hearing to fight, and whether the case goes to trial. Dallas DWI Lawyers starts with a free case evaluation so you can hear what your specific case involves before you commit to anything. Call or text (945) 403-4331 to set one up. What happens after a DWI arrest in Dallas? Most people arrested in Dallas are booked at the Lew Sterrett Justice Center and released on bond, often with conditions such as an ignition interlock. Misdemeanor DWI cases then move through the County Criminal Courts at the Frank Crowley Courts Building, while a separate license suspension case starts with DPS. The team at Dallas DWI Lawyers deals with both tracks from the first call. How long do I have to request an ALR hearing in Texas? The request must be made within 15 days of receiving notice of the license suspension, which is usually the day of the arrest. Missing that window means the suspension can take effect without a hearing. Dallas DWI Lawyers files ALR requests and represents drivers at the hearing, so call (945) 403-4331 as early as you can. Is a first DWI a felony in Texas? A standard first DWI is a Class B misdemeanor with a minimum of 72 hours and up to 180 days in jail, and a fine of up to $2,000. It becomes a Class A misdemeanor if a test shows 0.15 or more, and it can be a state jail felony if a passenger under 15 was in the car. Our downtown Dallas office on St Paul Street handles every level of these charges. Can a DWI be dismissed in Texas? Dismissals do happen, usually when the stop lacked reasonable suspicion, the arrest lacked probable cause, or the breath or blood evidence has problems. No lawyer can promise a dismissal, but Dallas DWI Lawyers prepares each case as if it is going to trial and reviews the video, reports and lab records for weak points. Should I refuse a breath test in Texas? Texas is an implied consent state, so a refusal can bring a license suspension of at least 180 days and can be mentioned at trial. Officers can also get a blood warrant, especially during Dallas County no refusal weekends. Every situation is different, so talk to a DWI defense attorney about how a refusal affects your own case. Can I still drive after a DWI arrest in Dallas? Usually yes, at least for a short time, because the suspension does not start right away and a timely ALR request can hold it off until the hearing. If a suspension does take effect, an occupational license may let you drive to work, school and essential errands. Dallas DWI Lawyers helps with both, starting with a call to (945) 403-4331. How long does a DWI stay on your record in Texas? A DWI conviction stays on your Texas criminal record permanently unless the law gives you a way to seal or clear it. Some first-offense cases may qualify for nondisclosure, and expunction is generally limited to dismissals, acquittals and no-bills. The firm can review your eligibility during a free case

evaluation. What makes a DWI a felony in Texas? A DWI becomes a felony with two prior intoxication convictions, a passenger under 15, a serious injury (intoxication assault) or a death (intoxication manslaughter). These carry prison ranges from 180 days in a state jail up to 20 years. Managing Attorney Gary L. Medlin has been Board Certified in Criminal Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization since 1989. Do I need a lawyer for a first DWI in Texas? You are not required to have one, but a first DWI can still mean jail time, fines, a license suspension and a permanent record. A lawyer can challenge the stop and the testing, and may be able to pursue options such as deferred adjudication where the law allows it. Dallas DWI Lawyers answers calls and texts 24/7 at (945) 403-4331. Can a DWI be reduced to a lesser charge in Texas? In some cases, problems with the evidence lead prosecutors to offer a reduced charge such as obstructing a highway or reckless driving. Whether that is possible depends on the facts, the test results and your history. Attorneys at Dallas DWI Lawyers include former prosecutors who understand how those decisions get made in Dallas County. What is the difference between a DWI and a DUI in Texas? In Texas, DWI is the charge for adults who are intoxicated while driving, while DUI is a Class C charge for drivers under 21 with any detectable amount of alcohol. A young driver can face either charge depending on the evidence. Dallas DWI Lawyers defends underage drivers from SMU, University Park and across Dallas.